

# THE IBIS.

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XXVII.—*Notes on Birds around Mpumu, Uganda.*

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(Plates X. & XI.\*)

MPUMU is a hill some fifteen miles due east of Kampala and about four miles from the Victoria Nyanza.

The country round about is hilly, and in the valleys run streams which are lined with thick forest. Most of the hills are covered with short grass, while a few have forest growing to the tops. The intervening country is mainly composed of elephant-grass, with patches of forest here and there. The rainy seasons are from March to May and again from September to November.

The classification and nomenclature followed are taken from Shelley's List in the first volume of his 'Birds of Africa,' except where a special reference is given.

1. *Nectarinia kilimensis*. This is by no means a common bird.

2. *Cinnyris cupreus*. This is probably the commonest Sun-bird, though I have not come across its nest. The males are in perfect plumage and breeding condition in June.

\* For explanation of Plate X. see p. 508.

3. *Cinnyris superbus*. Only one was seen, on May 16, which proved to be a male coming into colour.

Iris dark brown; feet black; bill black.

4. *Cinnyris chlœropygius*. Common round the outskirts of forest. A nest found on September 22 was suspended at the end of a twig about six feet from the ground. The nest was composed of grass and lined with vegetable down, lichen being attached to the outside. The two eggs were greenish white with a ring of brownish-grey blotches round the thicker end.

5. *Chalcomitra acik*. After *C. cupreus* this was found to be the commonest Sun-bird. The nest, a very untidy and old-looking structure with ends of dry grass hanging from it, is usually placed in a conspicuous position from five to ten feet from the ground. There appear to be two breeding-seasons, as I have records of nests in May and June and again in October. The nests which I have noticed have only contained one egg or a single young bird. Two very different types of eggs are figured (Plate X. figs. 4 & 10).

6. *Cyanomitra cyanolæma*. This bird was only seen on one occasion, when it attracted my notice by its continual chirping, fairly high up in thick forest. There was a pair with their young, which, though well able to fly, were still being fed. This was in September.

7. *Cyanomitra obscura*. Not uncommon in forests.

8. *Cyanomitra verticalis*. Common both in forests and in the open country in the neighbourhood of forests.

A pair obtained in March showed every sign of wishing to nest. I have mistaken these birds for Warblers whilst they were hopping about among thick undergrowth, evidently searching for insects.

9. *Anthothreptes hypodila*. A common bird on the outskirts of forests. The nest, usually from five to eight feet from the ground, is composed of fine grass or rootlets interwoven with small pieces of grass and lined with down; the

two eggs (Plate X. figs. 2 & 3) are a dull white, spotted all over with dark grey or brown, more thickly at the larger end. The only nests I have noticed have been in May, although a young bird, still being fed by its parents, was obtained on September 7.

10. *Anthothreptes tephrolæma*. Only obtained once.

11. *Zosterops senegalensis*. A very common species. Its beautiful hanging nest is always placed in a conspicuous position. I have found nests in April, May, and June. The eggs, generally two, but occasionally three in number, are usually pale blue, though sometimes white.

12. *Parus leucomelas*.

*Parus leucopterus* (nec Swainson.); Shelley, Birds Afr. i. no. 115.

Never abundant, though noticed fairly frequently. A bird in breeding condition was obtained in March.

13. *Parisoma plumbeum*. This is by no means an uncommon species; its plaintive notes can often be heard, though the bird itself is not very often seen, as it frequents thickish bush and its note is ventriloquial. Birds in breeding condition have been obtained in May and June.

14. *Motacilla vidua*. Ubiquitous and always welcome with its brilliant song. It is one of the tamest of birds, frequently walking into one's house, and usually to be seen within a few inches of the natives' hoes when digging. It nests in the thatch of buildings, and is a common host for *Cuculus solitarius*. Nests in April and May.

15. *Motacilla flava*. A common visitor from September to April. Sometimes to be seen in hundreds.

16. *Anthus trivialis*. A common visitor from October to March.

17. *Anthus gouldi*. Common. Birds in breeding condition have been procured in February and again in July.

18. *Macronyx croceus*. Fairly common in short grass.

19. *Mirafra fischeri*. Not uncommon in the short grass country. A male in breeding condition was obtained in the middle of May.

20. *Emberiza flaviventris*. Only one was seen, on August 21.

21. *Passer diffusus*. A common bird round habitations, having the same habits as *P. domesticus*. It usually nests in thatch, though occasionally builds in trees or in holes or nests of *Hirundo puella*. I have found nests in April, June, and August. The eggs, usually four in number, are typical Sparrows' eggs.

22. *Chrysomitris frontalis*.

*Spinus citrinelloides frontalis* Reichw., Vög. Afr. iii. 1904, p. 276.

The nest of this species is placed in between the fruit of a bunch of bananas, being almost hidden from below, and is composed of fine grass and down, the outside being cotton. The eggs (Plate X. fig. 5), two in number, are greyish, finely dotted with dull purple, more thickly at the larger end. They nest in May.

23. *Serinus sharpei*.

*Serinus sharpei* Neumann, Journ. Ornith. 1900, p. 287.

A fairly common bird. Like *Chrysomitris frontalis* it nests in bunches of bananas. The eggs are very pale blue, with a few dark brown spots at the larger end. These are to be met with in October.

24. *Vidua principalis*. A very common bird.

25. *Coliuspasser ardens*. Not uncommon. Probably nests in April and May.

26. *Coliuspasser concolor*.

*Coliuspasser concolor* (Cass.); Shelley, B. Africa, iv. 1905, p. 44.

The same remarks apply as to *C. ardens*, and I believe its

nesting-time is the same, though I have not found the nests of either species.

27. *Urobrachya phœnicea*. Common, though local. It seems to prefer swampy districts, and nests in April and May.

28. *Pyrenestes ostrinus*. Only seen once, on 5 April, 1912, nesting. The nest was very large and untidy-looking, composed of coarse grass woven together, with loose ends sticking out and hanging down, and was lined with fine grass. It was placed on a bare branch overhanging a road and difficult to get at, with the result that two out of three white eggs (Plate X. fig. 8) were broken in securing them. The male bird was at the time sitting, the female was not seen.

29. *Nigrita schistacea*. A common bird. It has two nesting-seasons, one in May and June and one later in October. Its nest is a very large untidy structure, built from ten to twenty feet from the ground and composed of fibre surrounded by dead leaves and strips of banana-leaves, the entrance being at the side. Four eggs form the clutch; these are pure white, but look pinkish when fresh, owing to the yolk showing through.

30. *Nigrita fusconota*. This bird is common in the forests. It breeds in August, but I have no notes of its breeding-habits. A young bird in immature plumage obtained in September was not unlike the adults, but the head was dark brown and not blue-black, and the rump was jet-black with no trace of the steel-blue.

31. *Spermestes cucullatus*. Abundant everywhere. The nest is either built in a bush in the usual oval shape, composed of grass heads with a short tube as an entrance at the side, or an old Weavers' nest, relined with grass heads, is made use of. The nesting-season is mainly confined to the months of April, May, June, and July, although odd nests may be found, I believe, during most of the year. Their

roosting-quarters are old nests, either their own or those of Weavers, into which they crowd sometimes as many as ten or more together.

32. *Estrilda paludicola*. A common bird in swampy ground. I found a nest of this species (on 2 January, 1905, at Entebbe) built on the ground among long grass. It was composed of grass, and of the usual circular form with a hole in the side. I have obtained young of this species, evidently only just out of the nest, in May.

33. *Estrilda nomula*. Common in all the native gardens and in forests. The nest is of the usual Grass-Finch type, built from three to eight feet from the ground with a projecting tube, but has the addition of a second and smaller nest above. This is said to be for the cock bird, but is it not possibly a blind for enemies? The tube is almost closed, while the upper nest is easily seen into and would appear empty. It nests either in the middle of forest or in bushes and gardens in April and May and probably again later, as I have found young just out of the nest in September.

34. *Estrilda minor*.

*Estrilda minor* (Cab.); Shelley, B. Afr. iv. 1905, p. 198.

Common. Nests in April and May.

35. *Lagonesticta rhodoparia*. Not uncommon. I have never found its nest.

36. *Lagonesticta brunneiceps*. Very common everywhere. Nests in outbuildings, the nest being composed of grass and feathers.

37. *Spermospiza rubricapilla*. Seen once or twice, but by no means common. The nest was once found on 6 October, 1911, in the fork of a small thorny tree ten feet from the ground in a very conspicuous position in the forest. It was very untidy, composed of coarse grass and lined with fine grass, the whole covered with loosely hanging dry ferns. The birds were very shy, and never came near the nest while

I was watching. The nest came to an untimely end, and was found to contain three newly hatched birds. I have seen several of these nests since, usually in the same kind of thorny tree, but always old ones.

38. *Clytospiza monteiri*. Not common, seen once or twice in grass-country.

39. *Malimbus rubricollis*.

*Malimbus rubricollis* (Swains.); Shelley, B. Afr. iv. 1905, p. 346.

Not very common. These are delightful birds to watch in the forests, climbing about and often hanging on the undersides of the branches.

40. *Pachyphantes superciliosus*. Not very common. Young birds were obtained in June.

41. *Melanopteryx nigerrima*. Very common. These birds start nesting in late February and March, again in May, and later in the year in September. Nests are composed of either grass or the leaves of palms.

The males at times breed before they have come into full plumage. The males do all the building, and the females only occasionally visit the nests while they are in course of construction. The eggs are invariably blue (Plate X. fig. 6). The branches on which the nests are built are usually stripped of all leaves several feet back from the nest.

42. *Heterhyphantes nigricollis*. A common bird. Usually found in pairs. The nests, always found singly, are usually slung on elephant-grass and are built in April, May, and June. They have an entrance-tube about eight inches long.

The eggs vary enormously both in colour and size. They are found from unspotted pale blue to blue spotted with brown, then changing to a pinkish ground-colour, slightly spotted, up to heavily blotched, with red-brown. The clutch is either two or three.

43. *Hyphanturgus ocularius*. Not very common. Usually found near water. The nests, which I have found in April and August, have a longish entrance-tube. The eggs, two in number, are bluish with dull brownish-grey spots all over.

44. *Hyphanturgus stuhlmani*. Not very common.

45. *Sitagra pelzelni*. Probably not uncommon near the lake. A nest, believed to be of this species (but the bird, though seen, was not obtained), was taken on April 4. It was hanging from a single creeper and was very untidy and small, not unlike that of *Chalcomitra acik*. It contained two small white eggs.

46. *Xanthophilus xanthops*. Not at all common. This bird was nesting in April. The nest had no entrance-tube and was woven on to elephant-grass. Two other nests, evidently of the same species, were built within a few yards of the one occupied, but only the one pair of birds was seen. The clutch was composed of two eggs (Plate X. fig. 16) with a greenish-blue background spotted all over with brown.

Another similar nest was found on the same day with two pure white eggs in it, and the bird seen, but not obtained. In this case also two other nests were near by, but only the one was in use.

47. *Hyphantornis abyssinicus*. Common, but by no means abundant. This bird almost invariably nests with *Melanopteryx nigerrima* in the same colony.

48. *Hyphantornis weynsi*.

*Hyphantornis weynsi* (Dubois); Shelley, B. Afr. iv. 1905, p. 432.

These birds are found in flocks feeding on wild figs in July and August in the forests, or seen flying to roost in flocks. I am inclined to think that they are strictly forest-birds. I have not obtained any females, although I have looked carefully for them when the birds are feeding and have shot what turn out to be immature males. The males at this



time of year are in breeding condition, but I have never yet found the nests. When feeding they are very noisy, and sound like a colony of *Melanopteryx nigerrima* building.

Iris bright yellow; feet brown; bill black.

*Imm.* Iris dull brown; feet brown; bill brown.

49. *Hyphantornis dimidiatus fischeri*. Not very common. Nesting in March and April on elephant-grass. Of the only two nests I have found, one contained light blue eggs spotted with brownish, the other reddish-brown eggs. The clutch was two in each case.

50. *Cinnamopteryx interscapularis*.

*Cinnamopteryx interscapularis* (Reichw.); Shelley, B. Afr. iv. 1905, p. 361.

Only one seen, a male coming into colour, the chocolate on the breast being only shown by a few feathers. Iris dark chocolate.

51. *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*. Not very common, but its rich notes are occasionally heard.

52. *Pholidauges verreauxi*. This bird does not, as far as I know, breed here, and I have only noticed it from the end of April to the end of August, none of my birds being in breeding condition.

One obtained on April 28 is a male coming into colour. The primaries, coverts, and tail have changed to the adult plumage, the back having a few new feathers, while the head has not yet begun to show them. They go about in flocks of from six to eight, and have the habit of flying from a branch to catch an insect and returning to the same spot.

53. *Lamprotornis splendidus*.

*Lamprotornis splendidus* (Vicill.); Shelley, B. Afr. v. 1906, p. 65.

Common. Every evening a noise like a distant express train can be heard as these birds fly overhead in large flocks to their roosting-grounds. Flock after flock passes over. They are very noisy and extremely shy birds.

54. *Corvultur albicollis*. By no means a common bird.
55. *Dicrurus afer*. Now and then seen. When watching a large Owl roosting one day, one of these birds came and drove it off.
56. *Campophaga phœnicea*. Occasionally seen. A pair were noticed for several days towards the end of March flying from tree to tree uttering their harsh bell-like note, but I was unable to find the nest for some days, though I watched them carefully. The nest was practically hidden in the fork of a leafless tree, and was composed of tree-moss and lichen bound together by spiders' webs. The eggs (Plate X. fig. 11), two in number, were yellowish green spotted with purplish. The flight of this bird is up and down like a switchback, and it usually utters its note while on the wing.
57. *Lanius mackinnoni*. Not at all common. An immature specimen was secured in June.
58. *Dryoscopus jacksoni*.  
*Dryoscopus jacksoni* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xi. 1901, p. 57.  
Only noticed a few times.
59. *Laniarius æthiopicus ambiguus*. Not common. A female in breeding condition was obtained in June.
60. *Bocagia minuta*. Not uncommon in the grass-country.
61. *Nicator chloris*. Fairly common in the forests. Breeds in April, when it utters some fine resounding notes.
62. *Pycnonotus layardi*. Very common everywhere. Nests at heights varying from two to forty feet from the ground. The nest usually rests in a fork of a tree or bush, but on one occasion I found one hanging like that of a Whiteye, the top edges being woven on to twigs. The bird was shot to ensure identification. It builds in April and May. The eggs have a pink ground-colour, spotted all over, more heavily at the larger end, with red.

63. *Andropadus virens*. A very common forest-species, usually skulking in the undergrowth, but also seen higher up among the larger branches. It builds close to the ground, the nest being composed of dead leaves and coarse grass and lined with fine grass. The eggs are very much like those of *Pycnonotus layardi*, but are more shiny.

64. *Andropadus latirostris*. Only one obtained, a female in breeding condition in May.

65. *Andropadus curvirostris*. One obtained, out of breeding condition, in September.

66. *Andropadus gracilirostris*.

*Andropadus gracilirostris* Strickl. ; Reichenow, Vög. Afr. iii. 1904, p. 411.

A male obtained in September. Iris blood-red.

67. *Bleda pallidigula*.

*Xenocichla pallidigula* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. vii. 1897, p. vii.

Not very uncommon. A nest was found on April 16, about ten feet from the ground, in a thicket composed entirely of small twigs. There were two eggs (Plate X. fig. 19) of a dirty white, heavily blotched all over with dark brown. Iris yellow.

68. *Criniger albigularis*. One female obtained in forest ready for nesting, 24 May, 1912.

69. *Turdinus cerviniventris*.

*Turdinus cerviniventris* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xii. 1901, p. 3.

One male in breeding condition, but very poor plumage, obtained in forest on May 21.

70. *Hylia prasina*. A female shot on July 3 was evidently sitting, as the tail-feathers were curved round. This was the only bird noticed and was in thick forest.

71. *Camaroptera tinctoria*. This Warbler is by no means uncommon. It is a regular tailor-bird, sewing two leaves

together and building its nest in between. It builds in May and June, and a nest found contained one pure white egg of *Chrysococcyx klausi* or possibly *C. cupreus*, as well as one of the Warbler itself (Plate X. fig. 1).

72. *Sylviella carnapi*.

*Sylviella carnapi* Reichw., Orn. Monatsb. 1900, p. 22.

By no means common, although, owing to its skulking habits, it is doubtless often overlooked.

73. *Sylviella baraka*.

*Sylviella baraka* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. vii. 1897, p. vi.

Fairly common among the undergrowth in thick forest, though more often heard than seen.

74. *Eminia lepida*. Only seen once, but, being a forest-bird and very shy, is probably not so very uncommon.

75. *Apalis cinerea*. A male in breeding condition was obtained in June among the top branches of a high tree in forest. This and the next species are, I fancy, common, but they keep too high in the trees to identify or to obtain, and I have wasted many cartridges in trying to bring them down.

76. *Apalis rufigularis*. The habits of this bird are similar to those of the last species.

77. *Apalis jacksoni*. This beautiful bird was only noticed once—a family group searching for insects among the branches of forest-trees, but not very high.

78. *Burnesia reichenowi*. Probably the commonest Warbler in the district. It is to be found both in forest and outside, but should, I think, be considered a forest-bird. It is usually to be seen in parties searching for insects and continually twittering. The male when courting throws his tail right up over his back. It builds in May and June, the nest being constructed between two leaves sewn together (Plate X. fig. 18).



H. Grönvold pinx.

Dr. C. Newton

EGGS OF AFRICAN BIRDS.

79. *Prinia mystacea*. Nests from March to June and again in September, the nest being sewn into leaves and being composed of very fine grass. The eggs, two or three in number, vary very much, some being pale blue and others greenish, spotted or blotched with reddish brown.

80. *Cisticola sylvia*.

*Cisticola sylvia* Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. 1904, p. 28.

This species builds near the ground in a clump of grass, the nest being composed of coarse grass and lined with thistle-down. The eggs (Plate X. figs. 7, 12) vary, some being pale blue unspotted and others white speckled round the larger end with reddish. The complement is two or three, and they are laid in April and again in September.

81. *Cisticola strangii*. Common. Nests in June.

82. *Cisticola lateralis*. Common in the short grass. I shot a male of this species and a female of *C. sylvia* at the same nest, and believed them to be a pair. I now find that all the specimens of *C. lateralis* which I have at different times obtained are all males, and the few I have of *C. sylvia* are all females. On looking through these species at the Natural History Museum, my theory that they might be the same species is not borne out altogether, and I expect that I was wrong, and that a *C. lateralis* happened to come near the nest of *C. sylvia* while I was watching; but I hope to have another chance of satisfying myself before long.

83. *Cisticola rufa*. Fairly common. A breeding male was obtained in February.

84. *Cisticola erythroptus*. Not very common.

85. *Melocichla mentalis*. Not common. A breeding male was shot in May.

86. *Schœnicola apicalis*. Males in breeding condition were obtained in March and June. This is a very conspicuous bird when flying, but it usually only goes a few yards before taking cover in thick grass, where it skulks about.

87. *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Common from November to March. I have one specimen dated March 31 (testes large). This seems to be a very late date. Is it possible that a few pairs remain to breed in these parts? The testes or ova are usually so small as to make it very difficult to tell the sexes.

88. *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Not often noticed.

89. *Sylvia simplex*. Not at all common.

90. *Stizorhina vulpina*. Not uncommon in forest.

91. *Cossypha melanoneta*. An extraordinary songster and mimic. On one occasion I thought I heard a Guinea-fowl (*Numida ptilorhyncha*), and was moving in its direction when it changed its note to that of *Cuculus solitarius* and then to that of *Cuculus clamorosus* and then to its own song, and I recognized this *Cossypha*. I found a nest on May 23 in a thick bush about three feet from the ground. It was lined with rootlets, and contained three dark olive eggs. A bird just out of the nest, believed to be this species, was brought to me on June 4.

92. *Cossypha natalensis*. A nest found on May 1 in a crevice in the trunk of a tree about three feet from the ground was, I believe, that of this species; but, unfortunately, the bird was not obtained, though it was seen at close quarters. The three olive eggs were hatched, but later disappeared, being probably taken by squirrels or some other small mammal.

93. *Cossypha polioptera*. This rare bird has only been obtained on a few occasions. It is a very shy forest-bird, and the only one obtained in this district was a female shot in June.

94. *Cossypha somereni*.

*Cossypha somereni* Hartert, Bull. B. O. C. xxxi. 1912, p. 3.

Dr. Hartert has kindly compared a bird I obtained with his type and so named it. I find it difficult to distinguish however, between *C. polioptera* and *C. somereni*. Both my

birds have black tips to the feathers of the supercilium. My specimen of *C. somereni* is more grey on the back, but is evidently an older bird. The wing also is longer, but in most, if not all, of the *Cossyphæ* the male has a longer wing than the female, and the fact of the birds coming from the same district (the type of *C. somereni* was obtained in this locality) seems to point to their being identical.

95. *Pratincola rubetra*. Very common. I have no definite records of its arrival and departure, the earliest date of a specimen being November 25 and latest March 24.

96. *Pratincola axillaris*. Common.

97. *Turdus pelios*. Common in all the native gardens. This bird has a song very similar to that of *Turdus musicus*. It builds very frequently on the top of a growing bunch of bananas of a kind the fruit of which turns upwards, and so forms an ideal spot for the nest; this is built in April or May, and is formed of coarse grass mixed with mud outside and lined with rootlets. The eggs, usually three in number, are bluish green blotched all over with reddish brown.

98. *Melæornis pammelæna*. Fairly common. I have not found the nest, but have shot birds in breeding condition in the middle of February and young not long from the nest in April.

99. *Muscicapa brevicauda*.

*Muscicapa brevicauda* O.-Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xix. 1907, p. 107.

On 2 June, 1912. I noticed a Weaver's nest hanging from a single creeper, and, wishing to get the bird, I waited about, but did not see any Weavers in the neighbourhood. There was, however, a pair of *M. brevicauda* in a very excited mood evidently nesting near by, and while watching I saw one of them go into the Weaver's nest. On examination I found that the Flycatchers had built a nest inside that of the Weaver. The Flycatchers' nest was composed of coarse grass and lined with fine grass. It seemed extraordinary that a Flycatcher should select such a site as the



only entrance was from below up a tube some four or five inches long. There were, unfortunately, no eggs in the nest.

Later, on June 16, seeing a pair of these birds apparently nesting, and noticing two old Weavers' nests near by, I again discovered one with the nest of the Flycatcher within it, but again no eggs.

On a third occasion, June 28, I discovered two fully fledged young of this species in a very old Weavers' nest which was almost in pieces.

100. *Muscicapa grisola*. Fairly common on migration.

101. *Alseonax murina*. Not very common. A male in breeding condition was obtained in the middle of May.

102. *Alseonax griseigularis*.

*Alseonax griseigularis* Jackson, Bull. B. O. C. xix. 1906, p. 19.

Only one obtained—a male in breeding condition, March 26. This species would appear to be more correctly placed in the genus *Muscicapa*.

103. *Bias musicus*. Not uncommon. A fine songster in the breeding-season, which is from March to May, and at this time it will drive away most birds which approach anywhere near the nest. I have seen them time after time chasing a pair of Orioles, probably *Oriolus brachyrhynchus*, which appeared to be thinking of nesting themselves.

104. *Megabias æquatorialis*.

*Megabias æquatorialis* Jackson, Bull. B. O. C. xv. 1904, p. 11.

Not common. A male in breeding condition was obtained on April 28.

Iris blood-red; feet purplish; bill black.

105. *Diaphorophya castanea*. Not common. A pair in breeding condition was obtained on April 28. These birds make a sharp clicking with their wings as they flit about.

106. *Platystira cyanea*. Fairly common. Nesting on April 25 in the fork of a tree some twelve feet from the



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*CAMPYLOPS. CYANEA* ♀

ground. The nest (see Plate XI.) was very small, composed of grass bound with spiders' webs with bits of lichen attached. The eggs (Plate X. fig. 13) are two in number, of a brownish-white ground with purplish-brown spots, thickest at the larger end.

107. *Pachyprora orientalis*. Not common.

108. *Elminia longicauda*. This handsome Flycatcher makes a most beautiful nest covered with lichen, usually about six feet from the ground. It lays two eggs (Plate X. fig. 17) of a somewhat dirty white ground-colour, with grey spot, forming a band round the thick end.

109. *Terpsiphone emini*. Fairly common in the native gardens and forest. It builds a small nest in April, May, or June. The eggs (Plate X. fig. 14), two in number, are pinkish white with reddish spots and blotches, more thickly disposed round the larger end.

110. *Hirundo arcticincta*. Common. Nests in March and April.

111. *Hirundo senegalensis*. Fairly common.

112. *Hirundo rustica*. Common.

113. *Hirundo puella*. One of the commonest and tamest of the Swallows. I obtained one specimen with the outer tail-feathers over 6.5 inches long, which is 2.5 inches longer than any others that I have seen.

114. *Hirundo christyi*.

*Hirundo christyi* Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. xvi. 1906, p. 86.

Found only in swamps, frequently resting on the reeds. I have only noticed it from April to June.

115. *Psalidiprocne albiceps*. A common Swift.

116. *Cypselus caffer*. Fairly common.

117. *Caprimulgus natalensis*. Common. Breeds in June and July.

118. *Cosmotornis vexillarius*. A female shot in August was very fat. I have not seen the male in full plumage in this part of Uganda, and I do not think they nest here.

119. *Hapaloderma narina*. Only seen once in thick forest, where I was attracted to it by its curious note, a soft rather rapidly repeated "coo," which was unknown to me. The bird, a male, was in breeding condition.

120. *Eurystomus afer*. A fairly common bird, usually seen in pairs, hawking, often at a great height, for insects. It is always more in evidence in the evening from about sunset till dark. In March it nests in holes in trees on the soft pulp of rotten wood. Two eggs are laid; these are of a rather shiny white, which gets very dirty during incubation.

121. *Mellitophagus variegatus*. Never seen in any numbers.

122. *Merops albicollis*. Common. I have seen this bird on one occasion catch and eat a large blue butterfly.

123. *Merops superciliosus*. Fairly common.

124. *Upupa africana*. Not seen by me in this district, though one was observed near by on Jan. 5.

125. *Bycanistes subquadratus*. This noisy and ungainly bird is very common. I watched a cock feeding the hen at its hole early in March. I also shot an immature bird still being fed by the parent on April 21. The iris of the young bird was grey and feet dark grey. On one occasion I noticed a pair of these birds flying out time after time from a tree, catching white ants as they flew past. They looked most awkward while performing this feat.

126. *Lophoceros fasciatus*. Common. A bird was noticed for days towards the end of April carrying food into the forest. It would never fly more than 100 yards at a time when returning with food. By following it up, the hole was easily found and a native sent up, but he could not get his hand

into the hole, and, after being pecked by the hen inside, I could not get him to go up again. The hole was some thirty-five feet up, the tree being without branches up to this height.

127. *Ceryle rudis*. Common around the lake. A nest was found on September 1 close to the lake in a hole in a bank; it contained five white eggs almost due to hatch.

128. *Ispidina picta*. Fairly common.

129. *Halcyon malimbicus*. A forest-bird, not often seen.

130. *Halcyon cyanoleucus*. A breeding male was obtained in May.

131. *Halcyon chelicutensis*. A nest was seen on August 13, some thirty-five feet high, in a hole at the end of a dead branch. The chattering of the young birds called my attention to it, and one young bird, leaving the nest before it could fly properly, was caught. The hole appeared to be perfectly round like a Woodpeckers'.

These birds were also nesting at the top of the verandah-post of a double-storey building in Mombasa in March.

132. *Colius affinis*. Common. They seem to nest during most of the year. I have found them in January, May, June, and October. The clutch is two or three.

133. *Turacus emini*. Not at all a common bird. I have only noticed it once.

134. *Musophaga rossæ*. Fairly common.

135. *Corythæcla cristata*. Very common. Its resounding notes can be heard anywhere where there is forest. It is interesting to watch these lovely birds swooping one after the other (they usually go about in groups of eight or ten birds) from the top of one tree to about halfway up the next, and then characteristically hopping and running up the branches to the top. By the time number one is up at the top number two has just reached the tree and number three is just leaving the top of the last tree, and so on.

136. *Ceuthmochares æneus*. Common. Skulking about in the tops of thick forest-trees. A breeding female was shot in July.

137. *Centropus superciliosus*. Fairly common in the bush and grass country. A young one, only just able to fly, was seen on May 25.

138. *Cuculus solitarius*. This common Cuckoo is to be heard day and night from January to September. It is a very shy bird and not easy to obtain, although one for some weeks in February came every day and perched on a bare tree not ten yards from where I was sitting on my verandah and uttered its call, now and then flying down on to the ground to pick up a hairy caterpillar. It lays in May and June, and *Motacilla vidua* is a common host.

139. *Cuculus jacksoni*.

*Cuculus jacksoni* Sharpe, B. O. C. xiii. 1902, p. 7.

Very little is known about this rare bird. I obtained one on May 4, late in the evening, calling just outside a forest. I believe it to be entirely a forest-bird and very shy, only leaving the depths of the forest for the outskirts in the late dusk. When I obtained this bird I did not take particular note of its call, as I believed it to be *C. clamosus*—any way the calls are not very distinct.

140. *Cuculus clamosus*. A forest-bird, not often noticed until dusk, when it may be heard frequently. Its call is very distinct from that of *C. solitarius*, whose third note falls, whereas in this species it rises in tone, the three notes being uttered slowly and the last note often repeated. It has also a harsh chattering call of several notes, rapidly uttered, running up the scale and down again. A very shy bird.

141. *Cercococcyx mechowi*. Another rarity, of whose habits practically nothing is known. The only one I obtained in this district was in thick forest, very late in the evening. I was just able to see it outlined against the sky after it had flown past me. A lamp had to be fetched before it could be found.

142. *Chrysococcyx klaasi*. Fairly common. A white egg of either this species or *C. cupreus* was found in the nest of *Camaroptera tineta* in June.

143. *Chrysococcyx cupreus*. Very common. Lays in March, April, and May. I have never seen the young being fed by foster-parents. A female shot in May dropped a light blue unspotted egg on being handled, which unfortunately broke.

144. *Melanobucco æquatorialis*. Not often seen.

145. *Tricholæma ansorgii*. Common throughout the forest. When wild fig and other fruit-trees are bearing, these birds are to be found in numbers.

146. *Heliobucco bonapartii*. Only seen once—a male in breeding condition in February.

147. *Barbatula duchaillui*. A pair of these birds reared a family in a hole some twelve feet from the ground in the middle of forest in February. By no means common.

148. *Barbatula scolopacea*. Very common, breeds in May.

149. *Barbatula subsulphurea*. Not uncommon. A nest with one white egg partially incubated was found at the end of May, about ten feet from the ground, in a small hole at the end of a rotten branch. The hole was only about two inches deep.

150. *Barbatula leucolæma*. Not common.

151. *Dendropicus pæcilolæmus*. The only Woodpecker noticed in this locality. Fairly common. Birds in breeding condition were obtained in March and May.

152. *Vinago calva*. This bird quite realises its extraordinary protective colouring, and acts up to it by remaining absolutely still in a tree when danger threatens, and is then almost impossible to see from below. It builds in May and again in September, usually in quite a conspicuous position.

When sitting this bird seems quite fearless, and on one occasion I sent a boy up to a nest on which the bird was sitting. It did not fly off till he was almost within reaching distance, and then only to a neighbouring tree, whence it returned several times, circling round close to us. As soon as we left it came back.

153. *Columba uncinata*. This fine bird is common in the depths of the forest, and its deep "coo" can be frequently heard. Its mating "coo" is very soft and hardly audible a short distance away. A pair was seen together in February and on a previous occasion in March. I can find out nothing yet about its nesting-habits.

154. *Turtur semitorquatus*. Very common. They breed from March to June.

155. *Chalcopelia afra*. Common around the outskirts of forest. A bird with a considerable amount of white on the primaries was obtained. The nesting-season is from May to July.

156. *Tympanistria tympanistria*. Not uncommon in the forests. Nests in March.

157. *Psittacus erithacus*. Seen daily flying high overhead, but seldom settled.

158. *Agapornis pullaria*. The shrill notes of this bird are frequently heard as it darts about, its flights being very rapid. I never remember seeing a single specimen, two or more being always together.

159. *Scops scops*. A specimen of this bird was brought to me on March 20. It was very fat.

160. *Bubo lacteus*. Heard and seen a few times in the forest.

161. *Milvus ægypticus*. Abundant and, though useful as a scavenger, has to be shot where young chickens are about. On one occasion I found the gizzard of one of these birds full of hairy caterpillars.



162. *Aquila wahlbergi*. Fairly common. A great enemy to the chickens.

163. *Accipiter melanoleucus*. A fine male was shot in December, after having tried to carry off a chicken almost as heavy as itself.

164. *Scopus umbretta*. Often to be seen in or near running water.

165. *Corethrura pulchra*. Probably common in most of the swamps, but difficult to obtain, owing to their only flying a few yards before dropping into the long grass and not rising again. When put up by dogs in swampy forest, which they are also partial to, they often fly into trees, and can then be shot. I watched one for several minutes on one occasion in a swampy patch of forest running about and hobbing its tail in the regular Rail-fashion, all the while uttering a chirpy call.

166. *Turnix nana*. Occasionally seen, but never common. One hears frequently a curious booming call, which all the natives say is a puff-adder, but which, I think, may be this bird.

167. *Excalfactoria adansoni*. Now and then one comes across small parties of this pretty little Quail, usually in old deserted gardens. They can often be flushed by a dog a second time, unless the grass is too thick for the dog to move quickly.

168. *Francolinus schuetti*. The only common Francolin in this district. It is invariably met with in pairs. It usually perches after being flushed by dogs, and can then be approached to within a few yards, and will often not fly until stones have been thrown, and then only if almost hit.

169. *Francolinus mulemæ*.

*Francolinus mulemæ* O.-Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xiv. 1903, p. 30.

Very occasionally met with.

170. *Numida ptilorhyncha*. By no means abundant. A nest was found at the end of June with seven eggs just hatching. These were put under a hen and five hatched out. Spotted feathers on the breast began to appear when they were six weeks old.

171. *Otis melanogaster*. Not common, occasionally seen in the short grass. An egg figured (Plate X. fig. 15) was obtained near Mubende in April, the bird being flushed off its nest.

172. *Balearica pavonina*. Usually a few to be seen on cultivated ground.

173. *Phyllopezus africanus*. Very common on the water-lilies in the calm water around the lake-edge. A clutch of four eggs (Plate X. fig. 9) was taken on the lake-shore by natives at the end of August.

174. *Totanus ochropus*. Now and then seen in February and March.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE X.

Uganda eggs, with the dates in which they were taken.

- Fig. 1. *Camaroptera tinota*. 9.6.12.  
 2, 3. *Anthothreptes hypodila*. 20.5.12.  
 4. *Chalcomitra acik*. 7.5.11.  
 5. *Chrysomitris frontalis*. 31.5.12.  
 6. *Melanopteryx nigerrima*. 17.4.12.  
 7. *Cisticola sylvia*. 23.4.12.  
 8. *Pyrenestes ostrinus*. 5.4.12.  
 9. *Phyllopezus africanus*. 22.8.11  
 10. *Chalcomitra acik*. 21.6.12.  
 11. *Campophaga phœnicea*. 31.3.12.  
 12. *Cisticola sylvia*. 16.9.11.  
 13. *Platystira cyanea*. 25.4.11.  
 14. *Terpsiphone emini*. 16.6.12.  
 15. *Otis melanogaster*. 15.4.08.  
 16. *Xanthophilus xanthops*. 24.4.11.  
 17. *Elminia longicauda*. 16.4.12.  
 18. *Burnesia reichenowi*. 13.6.12.  
 19. *Bleda pallidigula*. 16.4.11.